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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/632,992	08/04/2000	Joseph T. Roberts	JBP-512	2211

7590 02/26/2003

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EXAMINER

DI NOLA BARON, LILIANA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1615

DATE MAILED: 02/26/2003

13

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/632,992

Applicant(s)

ROBERTS ET AL.

Examiner

Liliana Di Nola-Baron

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 January 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Receipt of Applicant's amendment and request for continued examination, filed on January 13, 2003, is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Petri et al. (U.S. Patent 6,114,298) in view of McAtee et al. (U.S. Patent 6,153,208).

Petri et al. provides compositions, which can be used to disinfect animate and inanimate surfaces (See col. 1, lines 5-12) and may be in the form of wipes impregnated/wetted with said compositions, without the need to pour the liquid composition on the surface to be disinfected and dry it out with a cloth (See col. 16, line 60 to col. 17, line 6). Petri et al. teaches that the composition of the invention comprises 60-99.5% of an aqueous phase comprising 0.001-15% of a disinfectant and up to 5% of another antibacterial/antimicrobial compound (See col. 8, line 58 to col. 11, line 38), 0.01-40% of any surfactant known to those skilled in the art (See col. 5, line 4 to col. 8, line 57) and up to 10% of a polymeric thickener, specifically polycarboxylate polymers, including polyacrylate polymers made from acrylic monomers and optionally other monomers and comprising a crosslinking agent to form crosslinked polymers (See col. 12, line

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61 to col. 14, line 15). Petri et al. provides a method to prepare the compositions of the invention, said method comprising mixing the ingredients together (See col. 14, lines 16-35).

Thus, Petri et al. provides an alcohol-free antibacterial wipe comprising a fabric, binder and antibacterial solution in an amount sufficient to produce a wet feel without the need for further wetting. Regarding claim 1, Petri et al. does not specifically teach that the binder is present in 90% of the substrate thickness, however, it teaches that the wipe is impregnated with the composition, thus the binder is uniformly distributed throughout the substrate. Regarding claim 2, a wipe has inherently a front surface and a back surface, and since the reference teaches that the wipe is impregnated with the composition of the invention, the binder is present on both surfaces. Regarding claims 5 and 6, Petri et al. contemplates the presence of up to 10% of crosslinked acrylic polymers (See col. 13).

Petri et al. is silent with respect to the specific fabric substrate, antibacterial agent and surfactant ingredients claimed in claims 3, 4 and 8 of the instant application.

McAtee et al. provides personal care articles comprising a water insoluble substrate and a cleansing composition comprising a surfactant (See e.g., col. 4, lines 36-65). McAtee et al. teaches that the substrate can be made of nonwoven materials and includes Chicopee® products containing rayon and a latex binder among the nonwoven substrates used in the invention (See col. 14, line 56 to col. 15, line 46). McAtee et al. lists disodium lauroamphoacetate among useful amphoteric surfactants (See col. 23, lines 9-29) and includes benzalkonium chloride among the antimicrobial agents used in the invention (See col. 46, line 25 to col. 47, line 25). McAtee et al.

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provides methods for manufacturing the article of the invention and teaches that the surfactant and any ingredient can be added onto or impregnated into the substrate (See col. 50, lines 15-64). Thus, McAtee et al. provides the general teachings that disodium lauroamphoacetate and benzalkonium chloride are routinely used in personal care products made of nonwoven substrates, such as rayon or latex binder, as surfactant and antimicrobial agent respectively. Regarding claims 4 and 8, Petri et al. teaches that the compositions of the invention may comprise up to 5% of another antibacterial/antimicrobial compound and 0.01-40% of any surfactant known to those skilled in the art.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the wipes disclosed by Petri et al. by including known antibacterial and surfactant ingredients, as taught by McAtee et al., to obtain antibacterial wipes. The expected result would have been a successful antibacterial wipe and successful method to produce said wipe. Because of the teachings of Petri et al., that antibacterial wipes may contain additional antibacterial compounds and any known surfactant, one of ordinary skill in the art would have a reasonable expectation that the wipes and the method for manufacturing said wipes claimed in the instant application would be successful. Therefore the invention as a whole would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed on January 13, 2003 have been fully considered but they are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

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Conclusion

4. Claims 1-8 are rejected.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Liliana Di Nola-Baron whose telephone number is 703-308-8318. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, 5:30AM-4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thurman K Page can be reached on 703-308-2927. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-3592 for regular communications and 703-305-3592 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 308-1234/ 1235.

LDNB

February 24, 2003

James M. Spear
JAMES M. SPEAR
PRIMARY EXAMINER
AU 1615